

Oakleigh  
M:28-64  
Montgomery County, Maryland

Built in 1882, Oakleigh is a 2-1/2-story, five-bay, Victorian-era frame dwelling covered with a gable roof. Although altered by new materials and a reconfigured interior space, the house retains its original, overall building form, and some of its original features and detailing including an Italianate-style door, applied woodwork in the dormers, and an original interior stair with a turned newel. Oakleigh was at one time part of the larger and neighboring Bloomfield estate, both of which have strong associations with the locally recognized Bentley family--Quaker farmers and active members of the larger Sandy Spring community. For much of the 20th century, Oakleigh was owned and occupied by Jack Bentley, a well-known baseball player who played for the Washington American League Baseball Club. Oakleigh meets Criteria B and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Determination of Eligibility Form**

Property Name: Oakleigh Inventory Number: M: 28-64  
Address: 18010 Bentley Road Historic District: Yes ☒ No  
City: Sandy Spring Zip Code: 10860 County: Montgomery  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Sandy Spring  
Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: SHA  
Agency Prepared By: MHT  
Preparer's Name: Tim Tamburrino Date Prepared: 07/08/2011  
Documentation Is Presented In: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility Recommended ☐ Eligibility Not Recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly Farms  
Inventory Number: M: 28-11-10 Eligible: ☒ Yes ☐ No Listed: ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Site Visit by MHT Staff: ☐ Yes ☐ No Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)**

Oakleigh is a contributing resource to the National Register-eligible Bloomfield-Oakleigh-Cloverly Farms. See DOE form for MIHP No. M: 28-11-10 for more information.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility Recommended: ☒ Eligibility Not Recommended: ☐  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE TO M: 28-11-10

Tim Tamburrino ✓  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]  
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/8/2011

Date

7/13/11

Date

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-28-64

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Oakleigh

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 18010 Bentley Road Not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Sandy Spring vicinity X state Maryland code MD  
county Montgomery code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20860

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_ No X

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Victorian

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Gable: Standing Seam Metal

walls Vinyl siding

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Oakleigh  
Montgomery County, Maryland

Inventory No. M-28-64  
Page 4

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1882-1969  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1882  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
Jack Bentley

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vols. I-V, Sandy Spring, MD.: Privately Printed.

Barrow, Healan and Kristine Stevens, *Olney: Echoes of the Past* (Westminster, MD.: Family Line Publications), 1993.

Boyd, T.H.S., *History of Montgomery County*, 1879.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD*, Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

MacMaster, Richard K. And Ray Eldon Hiebert. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976* (Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976).

Malloy, Mary Gordon and Marian W. Jacobs, compilers. *Genealogical Abstracts, Montgomery County Sentinel, 1855-1899* (Rockville, MD: The Montgomery County Historical Society), 1986.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, Fire Insurance Policies (Montgomery County Historical Society, Vertical Files).

Sandy Spring Museum, Vertical Files.

Maps and Drawings

Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879.

Martenet and Bond, *Map of Montgomery County*, 1865.

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 14.08 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Oakleigh occupies Parcels 77, 87 and 946 on Montgomery County Tax Map MC 22 B7.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These parcels are part of a larger tract of land that have been associated with Oakleigh since the construction of the house on the site in 1882.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians  
organization M-NCPPC date June 30, 1999  
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Sandy Spring National Bank of Maryland  
street & number 17801 Georgia Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Sandy Spring state MD zip code 20833

=====



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M-28-64

Oakleigh

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

Built in 1882, Oakleigh is a large, 2-1/2-story, five-bay, Victorian-era frame dwelling covered with a gable roof. Although altered by new materials and a reconfigured interior space, the house retains its original, overall building form, and some of its original features and detailing including an Italianate-style door, applied woodwork in the dormers, and an original interior stair with a turned newel. Oakleigh is located on an approximately 14-acre parcel of land the north side of Bentley Road, just east of Sandy Spring.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**

Oakleigh is a 2-1/2-story, five-bay, center-passage Victorian farmhouse built in 1882. The house is set upon a stone foundation, has vinyl siding over the original wood weatherboard and is covered with a gable roof, clad with standing seam metal. The roof features three symmetrically aligned gable dormers with applied decorative detailing typical of the Victorian era and features inside end brick chimneys. A two-story, two-bay wing with an end chimney located on the south side of the dwelling appears to be an original part of the house.

Exterior:

The east elevation is five bays wide in the main block and two bays wide in the side wing. The main block has a central entry door flanked by two, single 2/2 windows to either side on the first story and five 2/2 windows on the second story. The central entry retains its original Italianate-style door surround, including a segmental arched transom, and round-arched sidelights, all set within a bold architrave. The door itself is wood paneled with raised panels on the lower portion and long, round-arched glazed panels in the upper half. Across this first story spans a three-bay, shed-roof porch with square posts. A semi-octagonal bay on the northeast corner of the house is a remodeled version of the original three-sided bay which projected from the north wall.<sup>1</sup>

The first and second story windows of this facade no longer retain the louvered shutters visible in an historic photograph of the house. However, the original pedimented window casings, also visible in the photograph, may still be intact under the vinyl siding.

The half-story features three dormer windows equally spaced above

---

<sup>1</sup> The original bay is visible on an undated historic photograph of Oakleigh (Sandy Spring Vertical Files).

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Inventory No. M-28-64

Oakleigh

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

the first, third and fifth bays of the dwelling. These dormers have gable roofs, 2/2, segmental-arched windows and applied decorative trim in the pediment of the gable.

The east elevation of the two-story wing on the south end of the house features a stone and brick end chimney located on center of the wall with windows in the rear bay on both the first and second stories.

The north end of the house includes a semi-octagonal bay on the corner of the house and two, small windows in the gable end at the attic level. The octagonal bay has been altered in that it was originally located on the north end elevation, and not at the corner.

The west elevation of the house is much altered. A two-story shed-roof addition with replacement windows extends across the main block of the house, while a one-story shed roof "sunroom" addition extends across the two-bay side wing and part of the main block. Two of the original 2/2 windows survive in the second story of the side wing. There are no dormer windows located on this rear slope of the roof.

The south elevation features a large stone end chimney and brick stack on center of the wall. Single, 2/2 windows are located in the rear bay of the wall on the first and second stories. A set of concrete steps lead to a door in the one-story sun room addition.

Interior:

The interior was not available for survey, though an inspection of through the front windows indicates a much-altered configuration of space. However, the original straight-flight, open-stringer stair survives intact and features a heavy, turned newel, turned balusters, and stringer ornament.

**OUTBUILDINGS:**

The property includes three non-contributing outbuildings. Two small, gable-roofed and deteriorating frame sheds are located to the rear of the house and a frame garage to its side. The garage, clad with vertical board siding, is covered with a gable roof, with a shed extension. Both the main bay and shed extension can accommodate one car each.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Inventory No. M-28-64

Oakleigh

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 14-acre property known as Oakleigh was at one time part of the larger and neighboring Bloomfield estate, associated with the locally recognized Bentley family--Quaker farmers and active members of the larger Sandy Spring community. Oakleigh was built in 1882, by Richard T. Bentley, owner of Bloomfield had the house constructed for his son, John C. Bentley, the year of his marriage. John Bentley lived at Oakleigh until 1889, before moving into Cloverly, an adjacent house also formerly part of the Bloomfield property. Oakleigh remained in Bentley family hands until 1969, having been the home of Jack Bentley, a well-known baseball player, for much of the 20th century. Oakleigh survives as a good example of a vernacular Italianate house with strong ties to the Bentley family, who made significant contributions to our past. Oakleigh meets Criteria B and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Historic Context:

Oakleigh was built in 1882 on a part of the large Bloomfield (M:23-148) estate owned at that time by Richard T. Bentley. Bloomfield, itself, was originally part of an extensive Montgomery County land grant called "Charles and Benjamin" granted to Charles Beall in 1718 and containing 2,280 acres of land. By the late 18th century, a 100-acre tract of the large land grant was owned by local Quaker Richard Thomas ("Marse Dicky") of Cherry Grove.<sup>2</sup> It is believed that Richard Thomas built the original part of Bloomfield prior to 1806, then known as Bloomingdale for an overseer of his large property. By 1809, Caleb Bentley had acquired the property along with some adjacent land, bringing his land holdings in the vicinity to 234 3/4 acres.

Caleb Bentley, a Quaker born in Pennsylvania, moved to Montgomery County in 1795, becoming one of the county's most influential and prominent residents. Originally a clock maker, Bentley eventually became a leading area farmer, and entrepreneur. Upon coming to Montgomery County, Bentley settled first in Brookeville, where he lived in what is today known as the "Madison House,"<sup>3</sup> and where he

<sup>2</sup> When Richard Thomas died in 1806, his will manumitted all of his slaves, which numbered 112. This act is considered the first wholesale freeing of slaves in Maryland. (Nesbitt and Miller, 80.)

<sup>3</sup> The Madison House refers to the house in Brookeville which served as a place of refuge to President James Madison and his staff in 1813 when British troops burned the Capitol, White House and Navy Yard.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Inventory No. M-28-64

Oakleigh

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

became proprietor of the town's first store, and postmaster of that village. Bentley was part of the trio of men (Thomas Moore and Isaac Briggs were the other two) who, in 1809, established the now submerged factory town of Triadelphia, located on the Patuxent River.

Between 1819 and 1838, Caleb Bentley lived in Georgetown, but retained ownership of Bloomfield, renting it out. Upon his return from Georgetown in 1838, Bentley moved into Bloomfield where he remained until his death in 1851. Following his death, the title for Bloomfield went to his only son, Richard T. Bentley.

Richard T. Bentley was a well-known Sandy Spring farmer, postmaster of Sandy Spring, president of the Sandy Spring Savings Bank, and founding member and president from 1883-1889 of the Montgomery County Mutual Fire Insurance Society. He is also noted for his active role in the formation the Farmers' Club of Sandy Spring in 1844--the oldest agricultural society still active in Montgomery County. Richard T. Bentley lived on the property with his wife Edith Dawson Needles Bentley, whom he married in 1842. The couple were married in the Lombard Street Friends Meeting House of Baltimore and remained together for fifty years. They lived at Bloomfield their entire lives together, raising a family of eight children, and, according to local tradition, offered their house as a stop along the "Underground Railroad" during the years before the Civil War.<sup>4</sup> Richard Bentley died in 1889 at 71 and Edith Bentley died in 1894 at the age of 77.<sup>5</sup>

In 1882, Richard T. Bentley's son, John C. Bentley married Quakeress Cornelia Hallowell. Richard T. Bentley then built Oakleigh for his son on his Bloomfield estate. An 1882 Mutual Fire Insurance Policy on Oakleigh, and signed by Richard T. Bentley, describes the property as a new 2-1/2-story frame dwelling measuring 40 x 17 feet and having a two-story wing measuring 20 x 17 feet. The policy indicates that the dwelling was occupied by John C. Bentley.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Roger B. Farquhar, "Old Home in Sandy Spring Looks Back Over 150 Years," *The Record of Montgomery County*, 1950.

<sup>5</sup> Edith D. Bentley's obituary reads; "Edith D. Bentley of Sandy Spring, widow of Richard T. Bentley, died Thursday of last week [Feb 16, 1894], at the home of her brother, Edward M. Needles, Philadelphia, in her 77th year. She was married more than 50 years ago and until recently lived at Sandy Spring..." *The Sentinel*, February 16, 1894.

<sup>6</sup> Mutual Fire Insurance of Montgomery County, Policy #5980, 1882.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Inventory No. M-28-64

Oakleigh

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

During his life, and like his father and grandfather, John Bentley was an active member of the Sandy Spring community. He became director of the Savings Institution of Sandy Spring, belonged to the Montgomery County Agricultural Society, was a member of the Montgomery Farmers' Club, and was elected to the House of Delegates in 1912.

The young Bentley couple lived at Oakleigh from 1882 until 1888. In that year, Richard T. Bentley purchased Cloverly, the 43-7/8-acre tract of the Bloomfield estate which his father, Caleb Bentley, had sold prior to his death in 1851. Two weeks after Richard T. Bentley purchased this tract, it was transferred to John C. Bentley. John C. Bentley then moved to Cloverly, into the circa 1850 brick house on the property.

While John and Cornelia Bentley owned Oakleigh and lived at Cloverly, another son of Richard T. Bentley, Edward Needles Bentley, moved into Oakleigh. Edward Bentley lived at Oakleigh until 1894 when, after the death of his mother, he took possession of Bloomfield. In 1909, Edward Needles Bentley died at Bloomfield at the age of 55.<sup>7</sup>

Edward Bentley's daughter, Mary C. Bentley married Frank Pole Robison, and the two made Oakleigh their home.

On December 27, 1913, John C. Bentley died, leaving Oakleigh to his son, John Needles Bentley. Bentley's will read:

Knowing my son, John N. Bentley desires to live in the country and be a farmer, and being desirous to place him in a position that he may do so ... I give and bequeath to my son the farm owned by me called Oakleigh. ...<sup>8</sup>

Instead of becoming a farmer, John N. Bentley (Jack), who married Helen Murray, became a well-known baseball player. Jack Bentley was a pitcher for the Washington American League Baseball Club and later played for the New York Giants.<sup>9</sup>

It is not clear where Jack Bentley and his wife lived, while he was playing baseball. A 1939 entry in *The Annals of Sandy Spring*

<sup>7</sup> *The Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vol. IV, 1909-1929, 16.

<sup>8</sup> Will HCA 14/270.

<sup>9</sup> "Sandy Spring Retains its 18th Century Character," *The Evening Star*, March 20, 1975.



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Inventory No. M-28-64

Oakleigh

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

indicates that they were not living at Oakleigh, but had instead, been renting it out. The entry reads, "Jack Bentley remodeled Oakleigh and will move in shortly, the Bealls having moved to Layhill."<sup>10</sup>

On October 24, 1969, John Needles Bentley died, leaving Oakleigh to his wife, Helen.<sup>11</sup> Since 1969, Oakleigh has passed through a number of hands. Currently on the market, Oakleigh is owned by the Sandy Spring Savings Bank, and is unoccupied.

---

<sup>10</sup> *The Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vol. V 1929-1947, 155.

<sup>11</sup> Will WES 7003-242.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-28-64

Oakleigh

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):** Architecture, Landscape  
Architecture, and Community Planning

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Standing Structure

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** Single Dwelling

**Known Design Source:**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-28-64  
Oakleigh  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====

**Chain of Title:**

1809	Caleb Bentley purchases Bloomfield.
1851	Caleb Bentley dies. Caleb Bentley's house and land go to Richard T. Bentley.
1882	John C. Bentley, son of Richard, marries Cornelia Hallowell. Oakleigh is built on Bloomfield property.
1888	John C. Bentley and wife acquired and moved into Cloverly.
1891	Edward Bentley rented Oakleigh from John Bentley.
1908	Edward Bentley's daughter, Mary C. Bentley married Frank Pole Robison. They moved into the Oakleigh house.
December 27, 1913	John C. Bentley died.
1914	John C. Bentley to John Needles Bentley, son. (Will Book HCA 14 Folio 270)
October 24, 1969	John Needles Bentley died.
	John N. Bentley to Helen Bentley, wife. (Will Book WES 7003 Folio 242)
	Sandy Spring Savings Bank (Present Owners)



# OAKLEIGH (M: 28-64)



Casual User Application



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760



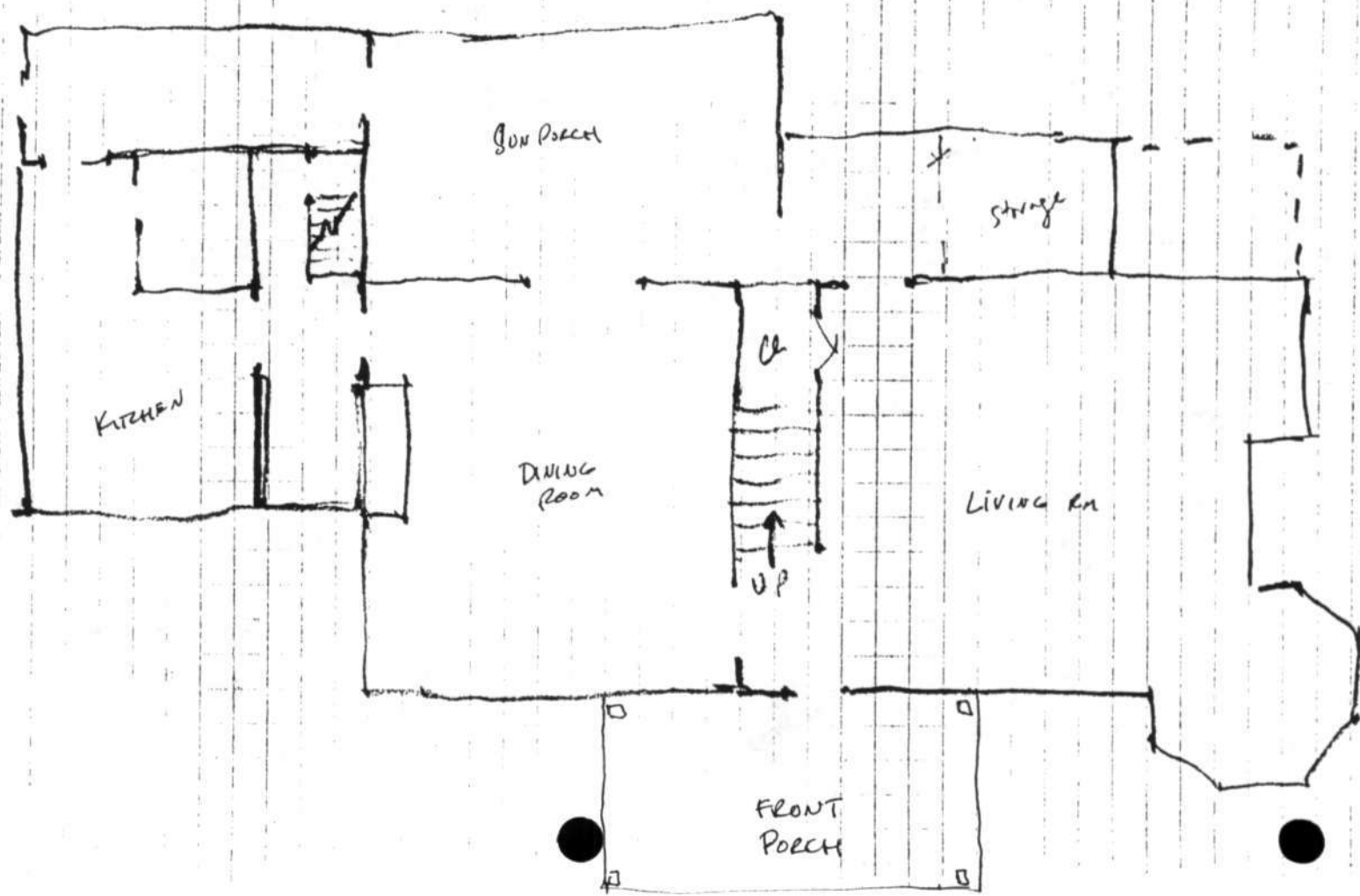
Scale 1" = 400'



M: 28-64

OAKLEIGH  
18010 BENTLEY ROAD

1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR





Name: SANDY SPRING  
 Date: 7/13/99  
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 08' 53.3" N 077° 01' 33.7" W  
 Caption: OAKLEIGH M: 28-64  
 18010 Bentley Rd.

M: 28-64



28-64

OAKLEIGH

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

5-24-99

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

1 OF 3



28-64

OAKLEIGH

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

5-24-99

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST OBLIQUE

2 OF 3







28-64

OAKLEIGH

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

5-24-99

MARYLAND SHPO

DETAIL OF SOUTH ELEVATION ENTRY DOOR

3 OF 3